



American Association of School Administrators

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July 11, 2007

The Honorable Lee Terry  
1524 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Terry:

The American Association of School Administrators, AASA, the professional organization of over 13,000 local superintendents and other school system leaders across the country would like to express our appreciation to you for introducing *the State and Local Education Flexibility Act of 2007*, HR 2946, and express our strong support for the measure.

HR 2946 represents an important step in revitalizing the local/state/federal partnership to improve academic achievement for low-income students, students who are learning English and students in special education. No Child Left Behind tilted the local/state/federal partnership towards rigidity, over-regulation and unfunded mandates for school districts and states.

Teachers and students will benefit from more accurate information; and schools and school districts will benefit from fairer and more accurate evaluations. Similarly students with disabilities and students who are English Language Learners will benefit from the provisions of HR 2946 that markedly improve accuracy and usefulness of the assessment of their academic achievement.

*The State and Local Education Flexibility Act of 2007* finally brings long overdue Congressional attention to the 5,000 small and rural school districts that cannot comply with the teacher qualification requirements in NCLB, and gives states and school districts tools to help them attract, develop and retain highly qualified teachers.

Finally, the proposed GAO study of the actual cost of NCLB to school districts and states is long overdue. If the federal government is going to force states and school districts to follow federal priorities, the cost to state and local taxpayers ought to be transparent.

AASA thanks you for your vision and willingness to listen to local educators and pledges to help you get these important provisions into the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Yours Truly,

Bruce Hunter  
Associate Executive Director